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NSC BRIEFING

29 December 1960

FRANCE-ALGERIA

- I. De Gaulle expected to win wide backing in France in 8 January referendum on self-determination for Algeria despite opposition from Communists, rightists, and some center elements.
  - A. Referendum will give Algerians right to decide for themselves what type of government they want for Algeria.
  - B. A "yes" vote also means approval of an interim administration in Algeria which De Gaulle is now setting up.
- II. De Gaulle spearheading a vigorous campaign for his plan and restricting opposition.
  - A. Has scheduled three major personal speeches (20 and 31 Dec; 6 Jan.)
  - B. Allowing limited broadcast time only to the six parties which have both parliamentary seats and a formal party structure.
    1. This requirement restricts some opposition groups such as that of Jacques Soustelle which has been obliged to buy time on the Luxembourg commercial station.
  - C. Most Frenchmen still convinced De Gaulle is their main hope for an end to the rebellion.
- III. In Algeria, however, outcome of vote in doubt.
  - A. Massive settler opposition expected.
  - B. Many urban Moslems likely to heed FLN rebels instructions to boycott the vote which rebels claim is a snare and delusion.

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- C. Outcome may hang on whether army will try to influence rural Moslems one way or other.
- IV. Rightists in Algeria plan anti-referendum demonstrations.
  - A. FLN will probably exploit these for own ends.
  - B. Result could be violence.
- V. Official press statements hint De Gaulle may make a new bid before 8 January for negotiations with rebels, despite army hostility.
- VI. FLN rebels, however, see their hand strengthened by UN resolution and pro-rebel attitude of Moslem rioters in Algiers.
  - A. They are reported determined to reject administration De Gaulle would set up after referendum and insist De Gaulle has no alternative but to deal directly with them.

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